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THEODORE W. NOYES.....Editor
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Mr. Bryan and the Nomination.

As it happened in Phoenix, Ariz., Wednesday, and great excitement prevailed about the outcome of the Union of the new state, the thing may be pardoned on that score. Mr. Bryan was again interrogated about his attitude toward the Baltimore nomination, and again declined to say whether he would or would not be a candidate before the convention.

Why attempt to pin the peerless leader down on that proposition? Why should he say yes or no about that feature of his future? Has it not been asserted and the assertion accepted a thousand times that he is a man of destiny? Should he attempt to interfere with destiny? Should he not sit tight, and let destiny work its will with him? It would seem so.

As respects Baltimore there are two considerations: (1) men, and (2) measures. Regarding the first we have to remember that the names of half a dozen excellent men are now under discussion in connection with the democratic leadership, and others may follow in the very near future. Of the list: Harman, Wilson, Clark, Underwood, Marshall and Foss. Six, to a dot. And good as they are, these men do not exhaust the party's presidential material.

Remember next that the two-thirds rule will run in Baltimore, and that 716 votes will be necessary to nominate. That is a large number, and in a contest where the favorite son appeal will play a part, so many votes will not be easily mustered. When the battle of the ballots begins, it may be protracted.

Reverend next that there are two democratic factions, just as in 1896. And Wall street, now as then, causes the division. Mr. Bryan's first nomination was made on the strength of the assertion that Mr. Cleveland had played Wall street's game. Mr. Bryan declared that the democracy must be divorced from Wall street. A similar declaration is now made. Silver was the issue then, as trusts are the issue now. Swat Wall street, and you have both the money trust and the protective tariff, in the way the Bryan faction puts the present case.

Now, with both a deadlock as to candidates and a heated row over the platform threatened, why should Mr. Bryan, who will be a towering figure in the convention, take himself up with any sort of declaration about his own name and the nomination? He has said, and it is understood, that he is not soliciting votes for the honor. He is not a candidate as others are. But he could not, if he would, take himself out of the general equation. If Bryan should win in the platform, and Mr. Bryan's own name become necessary to break the deadlock over candidates, he would have to yield. And maybe there is no risk or harm in adding that he would do so with mighty good grace. It would rank with one of the most pleasant and graceful surrenders ever made.

Another Murder Mystery.

Is the murder of Sam Hing to be added to the list of local crime mysteries? Thus far in the search for the slayer of the Chinese laundryman no success has been scored and there is no immediate prospect of a solution. The crime was similar in general characteristics to that of the killing of Tobaccoist Mickle three months ago, the victim having been struck down in his own place of business without witnesses and the criminal leaving no clues to his object and none to his identity. The case is a hard one to handle, and lack of success on the part of the police would not necessarily reflect upon them, yet it is in the last degree desirable that the guilty person should be found and punished. Washington has had too many unsolved murder mysteries, and the past few years for its peace of mind, and this latest slaying, coming so soon after the 17th street crime, is especially disquieting.

There is no way of contending the economists who insist that an administration shall violently disorganize big business without causing serious inconvenience to an enormous number of little fellows.

A number of ancient politicians naturally fail to understand how King George could neglect a chance to make a speech which would stir things up.

That big Los Angeles dynamite explosion has not yet gotten through with its reverberations.

The Destruction of the Maine.

It was on this day fourteen years ago that Washington was startled by the news from Havana that the battleship Maine had been destroyed by an explosion the night before. Nothing that has happened since the civil war so greatly shocked the country as that announcement. It was recognized immediately as the probable cause of a war with Spain. The relations between the two countries were strained, but there yet remained the possibility of an adjustment. Indeed, there are many now who believe that if the Maine had not been destroyed some settlement of the Cuban situation would have been effected without resort to arms. The death of the Maine was a blow to the peace course between Spain and the United States seriously interrupted by reason of the grave breach of international etiquette committed by the former's minister at this capital through the writing of a letter to the premier at Madrid, criticizing President McKinley.

Spain was in no condition for a conflict with the United States, and doubtless that fact was thoroughly understood at Madrid. From the beginning there was no chance for Spanish success. The military operations in Cuba were simple and easily effective. The destruction of the Spanish fleet at Manila was as was said at the time, scarcely more than a bit of morning target practice. The case with which Cervera's fleet was destroyed at Santiago demonstrated the hopeless inefficiency of the Spanish navy, and made

the earlier fears aroused by this fleet when it was making its way from Spain seem rather ridiculous. At every stage of the contest the United States was overwhelmingly at an advantage. In numbers, in personnel, in equipment and in position, and these advantages must have been recognized at the outset by the Spanish government, unless it was afflicted with an amazing lack of information and a blinding sense of national superiority.

So it is to be concluded that had it not been for the act of treachery which caused the destruction of the Maine Spain would, after prolonging the negotiations to the utmost limit, and taking every chance to thwart the American purpose to secure the relief of the Cubans from their heavy burden, have yielded to an imperative demand preferred in terms of an ultimatum by this government. The explosion on the night of February 15, however, destroyed the last chance of a peaceful settlement of the Cuban question, and yielded without in effect acknowledging responsibility for this dastardly act which cost hundreds of lives.

This fact is now believed to have been known to the one who launched the torpedo or ignited the mine that destroyed the Maine. Who he was and whom he represented may never be known. There are many theories, but with few facts to justify any of them. All that is positively known today is that the Maine was destroyed by an explosion from without, and it remains for history to disclose whether that explosion was planned by a fanatic Spaniard thinking to precipitate the war rather than suffer his country to yield to the American demands, or by a Cuban reckoning upon the instant anger of the American people and the process of sweeping Spain entirely out of the western hemisphere.

Legislatures and Candidates.

The Maryland legislature presents its compliments, and would be happy to have Gov. Harman, Gov. Wilson, Speaker Clark and Mr. Underwood visit Annapolis on separate days and address the members on the political issues of the day. A graceful and excellent thing, and the invitation is likely to be accepted. Mr. Clark and Mr. Underwood are right at hand. Gov. Wilson is not far away, while Gov. Harman can reach the scene in less than twenty-four hours. Maryland democrats have not yet made up their minds on the subject of a presidential candidate, and the addresses solicited should aid them in doing so.

The Kentucky legislature a few weeks ago took a similar step, and Gov. Wilson has made his visit to Frankfort. Gov. Harman will be next Tuesday in response to his invitation, while his strength in the state is not as great as that of his Jersey rival, it is sufficient to encourage his friends to work for him.

But the Kentuckians went beyond the list of the recognized aspirants for the Baltimore nomination and included William B. Hearst in their program. He, too, was invited, and has accepted. His visit has been delayed by illness in his family. But in the near future he will tell the Bluegrass folk what he thinks the present situation calls for in the way of remedy.

If a suggestion is proper, would it not be well for the Maryland democrats to copy their Kentucky brethren in this? Mr. Hearst is not an avowed candidate for President, but the calculations do not shut him out entirely. As respects the vice presidency, he is very much in the picture. New York may be called upon to fill that place on the democratic ticket, and the editor-politician has claims on attention.

In the first place, Mr. Hearst is a man of undisputed weight in politics today. He has ideas, and exceptional means for their circulation. One does not now encounter anywhere references to him such as were common when he offered for the St. Louis nomination in 1894. Then he was tagged as only an ambitious young multi-millionaire, with more bounce than brains. He has since forced a revision of that judgment, and taken rank with men of aggressive thought and action. His counsel is sought by many who were then indifferent to him.

In the second place, it is not improbable that the American will be the only newspaper of any consequence in New York found supporting the Baltimore ticket. The tone of all the others is very suggestive today of opposition. What is the democracy moving for control at Baltimore? Is it a desire for a useful scrutiny by metropolitan journalism? Or is it that there has been three times rejected Bryanism as represented by Mr. Bryan himself, and if the result at Baltimore in candidate and platform smacks of the same thing brought up to date, Mr. Hearst may be the one sentimentalist to campaign to occupy the democratic watchtower. A lonely figure, but, with a newspaper in New York, another in Chicago, another in Boston, another in San Francisco, and a chick just hatched at Atlanta, he is worth cultivating.

Mayor Shank of Indianapolis has been to New York. He will never succeed in reducing the cost of a finger bowl and a few kind words in a Broadway restaurant.

Editor Watterson in discussing the Wilson-Harvey incident cannot refrain from adding the "to be continued" line as a mental reservation.

Since "Chantecler" made such an impression the hens have taken unto themselves the expensive airs of stage celebrities.

If Gen. Ainsworth had lived some years earlier he might have been suspected of the authorship of the letters of Junius.

Lillian Russell, in a burst of old-fashioned sentiment, insists that love is something more than a comic opera duet.

Some of the New York editors are disposed to proceed immediately with the third degree for Judge Rosalsky.

Mexico is still in need of less patriotic oration and more effective police regulations.

Wrapped Bread.

Members of the women's clubs of Washington are seeking to have all bread delivered to consumers in the District of Columbia wrapped to exclude dirt and disease germs. This is undoubtedly a move in the right direction. In the present state of sanitary science the public is well aware of the danger arising from the exposure of foods to disease elements. It is well known that dust carries bacilli and any food that is taken into the stomach without cooking after exposure to the atmosphere is in absolute danger of being contaminated. With the most careful handling it is certain that bread will be thus exposed. The only assured way of preventing infection is to wrap it at the bakery so that every loaf is protected. The bakers naturally urge that this will compel them to increase the price of their product. On the other hand it is pointed out that since by the use of machines the work of wrapping can be done for 42 a thousand, so that the cost of wrapping each loaf will be only one-fifth of one cent there would be no warrant whatever for adding another cent to the retail price, which would yield the baker four-fifths of a cent additional profit. Doubtless the bakers will be glad to make such an arrangement.

Those who are pressing for this method of bread handling argue that the extra fifth of a cent which the wrapping costs would be more than compensated for by the saving of the product, the wrapping preventing it from drying and becoming stale. Probably with good management the adoption of the wrapper would work out an increase in the bakery profits even at the present price per loaf.

This idea that dyspepsia is a national complaint in America may be due to the impressions gained by distinguished foreign visitors during a program of banquets.

One, thing may be considered pretty sure. Mr. Roosevelt would refuse a vice presidential nomination.

At all events Mayor Gaynor has a better chance of becoming a presidential nominee than Gov. Dix.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

Called to Statesmanship.
"Well," said Mr. Meekton, "I guess I'll have to go in for politics."
"What makes you think so?"
"Henrietta has gotten an idea that I look well in a plug hat and a Prince Albert coat."

Applause.
Applause, oh, friend, experience will teach. To various causes evermore is due. Sometimes expressing pleasure at your speech.

And sometimes gratitude that it is through.
"Have you and your husband similar tastes?"
"Absolutely," replied Mrs. Flimsit. "We both spend all our time away from home playing bridge."

Agreed.
"Love you neighbor," said Uncle Eben; "an' after you has practiced dat awhile mebbe you kin git yoh disposition in shape to feel kind towards most of yoh family relations."

Unauthentic.
"Do you think there is any truth in the story that Washington never told a lie?"
"No. Washington himself was too truthful a man to ever give his indiscretion to so questionable a statement."

Discouragement.
Fust dar come a spit o' snow;
Pen de come a freeze;
Den de icicles dence grow;
A-hangin' 'fum de trees.
Go 'way, people.
Axin' me to sing!
De banjo's on de woodpile
An' de fiddle bus' a string!

Front yard is a skatin' rink;
Wind come howlin' past;
Every time you takes a drink
Yoh teeth most freezes fast.
Go 'way, people.
Callin' foh a song.
Wif a fros'-bit disposition
An' de whole world goin' wrong!

La Follette Stubborn.

From the Springfield Republican.
Senator La Follette's defiant message to the effect that "no misrepresentation from whatever source can take me out of the contest," is precisely what was to be expected of him. He is a born candidate for the presidency and he will remain what the Almighty made him so long as there is breath in his body. If Clifford Pinchot had studied the senator's career with much discernment he would have concluded that a man capable of defying Mr. Roosevelt when he was President by maintaining a candidacy against Mr. Roosevelt's personal choice would not now meekly abandon the field because of any conceivable reverse short of annihilation. La Follette has certain qualities, tenacity and faith in his own mission, that might easily upset the candidacy of the colonel. It is by no means the least interesting development of the fact that the Wisconsin senator seems to be preparing for war with Roosevelt, in case the Roosevelt candidacy emerges into the open arena of politics.

China's Revolution.

From the Boston Globe.
The Chinese are quick to learn. Undoubtedly they know more about the occult than we know about the occult. They may have noted with what ease revolutions have taken place in the west, and how the accomplished and affable Dom Pedro resigned his job as Emperor of Brazil and was given a cordial send-off with honorariums when he sailed for Portugal; how King Oscar I. quietly laid down the Norwegian scepter; how Abdul Hamid slid off the Turkish throne as if it were greased; how Manuel made his safe, though rather undignified, exit from Portugal; how President Diaz sailed away and left all the Mexican troubles to Madero. All these things may have made an impression on the Chinese mind. At any rate, in changing the Flory Kingdom into the Flory republic the revolutionists have acted with becoming moderation.

Moving Pictures in Politics.

From the Baltimore Sun.
Aren't the friends of Mr. Taft assuming a fearful responsibility in dragging the moving picture into politics? It may be well enough to press the President signing the Arizona proclamation, or Private Secretary Hill's personal conducting of the affairs of the nation, but what is to prevent Wall street from starting a riot by presenting the way it pictures Woodrow Wilson, a La Follette Oscar, four hours long, running the film at the rate of forty miles an hour? The sketch of Roosevelt in absolute silence would certainly be a moving picture. It would almost move the spectators to tears. We may yet have the scene of Mr. Bryan refusing the presidency, Mr. Taft welcoming the democratic tariff bills and Uncle Joe Cannon cheering for Champ Clark.

Conservative Papers.

From the Chicago News.
Chinese newspapers printed the proclamation of abdication in red ink, but not one of them went so far as to say that the decree was written exclusively for it by the empress dowager.

Not Saying a Word.

From the Albuquerque Journal.
So far Col. Roosevelt has not even intimated to any gentleman that his support will not be desirable.

Not Turning Down Supporters.

From the Chicago Record-Herald.
Gov. Harman of Ohio resolutely refuses to believe that he is being hurt by the support of anybody.

Candidates Aggressive.

From the Detroit Free Press.
Most of the candidates, however, are taking no chances on the office doing the least year stunts.

Be a Busy Man.

From the Pittsburgh Courier-Times.
To save time the Baconsians might prepare a list of the few famous books their idol didn't write.

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